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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 39
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 21 May 1990 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express anguish and outrage at the massacre near Tel Aviv of Palestinian workers from Gaza and at the subsequent brutal repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian demonstrators.

According to press dispatches by Reuters, Agence France Presse and UPI, and reports in The New York Times and The Washington Post, a former Israeli soldier dressed in army trousers and brandishing an assault rifle lined up dozens of Palestinian workers on a roadside in Rishon Le-Zion, near Tel Aviv, in the morning of 20 May, and opened fire, killing 7 and wounding 11. Defying a curfew imposed by the Israeli army, Palestinians took to the streets in great numbers throughout the occupied territory to protest against the massacre. A three-day general strike was called by the leadership of the intifadah. In the ensuing confrontations, Israeli troops shot and killed another five Palestinians in Gaza and two in the West Bank, and wounded at least 650 more.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to protest in the strongest terms against the indiscriminate actions by the Israeli army in firing on unarmed demonstrators who were understandably enraged by the massacre. The Committee finds it unconscionable that the murderous action of a disturbed individual, instead of leading to swift justice, should be used by the occupying forces to launch a new wave of repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territory. The Committee strongly deplores the climate of hate engendered by the repressive policies of the occupying Power, which cannot but lead to growing tension and violence.

These grave incidents show once again that the present Israeli Government flouts its obligations as the occupying Power under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and refuses to take the necessary steps to engage in a peace process. Under the circumstances, the Committee considers it imperative that the Security Council should adopt urgent measures to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people under occupation, as repeatedly requested by the General Assembly and by the international community as a whole. The Committee further appeals once again with the utmost urgency to the high contracting parties to the Convention to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the Convention. The Committee considers that ultimately true protection for the Palestinians can be achieved only through the exercise of their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own State, alongside Israel, with the proper security guarantees, and calls on all concerned to intensify their efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 34
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE
INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 21 May 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith press communiqué No. 023-90, issued by the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 May 1990, for circulation both nationally and internationally, for information (see annex).

I request you to have this note and the annex hereto circulated as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SUAZO TOME
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Press communiqué issued at Tegucigalpa on 16 May 1990
by the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press communiqué No. 023-90. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs the Honduran public and the public around the world of the following:

1. It is the Constitutional Government's firm and clear position that it will tolerate neither the presence of irregular forces on Honduran territory nor the use of Honduran territory for actions constituting a violation of Honduran sovereignty and of the international obligations of Honduras. The Nicaraguan resistance or counter-revolutionary forces have left Honduran territory, and the former contra combatants and their families in Honduras, who remain disarmed, have been regrouped in transit camps under the concrol of the International Support and Verification Commission/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (CIAV/UNHCR) and of Honduran civilian and military authorities. The Nicaraguan citizens in question will be repatriated to Nicaragua as soon as possible, in accordance with the series of agreements and accords signed by the Central American Presidents and the parties directly concerned.

2. On 12 May groups of Nicaraguans comprising an approximate total of 500 individuals arrived at the Trojes migration posts and were transferred, without any weapons whatsoever, to the above-mentioned transit camps for subsequent repatriation to Nicaragua. The individuals in question are apparently former contras who decided not to proceed to the security zones set up in Nicaragua by the Nicaraguan Government.

3. It is the Honduran Government's policy not to grant either asylum or refugee status to such groups of Nicaraguans. Of course, it is also government policy that such individuals should not carry weapons and that they should not pass through Honduran territory. The policy is simply to admit them to transit camps, for humanitarian reasons.

If, unfortunately, very great numbers of Nicaraguans or, as the case may be, Salvadorians arrive at the frontiers of Honduras in the future, owing to confrontations or armed conflicts in Nicaragua or El Salvador, the Honduran Government will take the necessary domestic or international action to ensure that such groups remain in their country of origin, under what may be regarded as adequate protection.

READEX FICHE